

Berwick / Somersworth 2019 Parade Committee - Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2019
Somersworth City Hall - Conference Room

In Attendance: Katelyn Carrington, Russ Timmons, Chris Smith,
Beth Poulin, Lindsey Gagnon, Liza Coco

1. Call to order
 - a. At 6:00
2. Meeting Minutes Accepted
3. Christmas Parade
 - a. The Second Place banner is still at Liza Coco's office. Beth or Chris plan to pick it up from her.
 - b. Float voting seemed to go different this year as not everyone who was voting had a tally sheet. Just one person from the group had one and they had to make a group consensus on voting. Next year we would like each judge to have a clipboard to track voting and tally up votes from each judge at the end. Also the float/participants would like feedback on how they were scored along with the voting scoring sheet available to view before the float is judged. That way the criteria is more clear and they can grow from the feedback for next year. The criteria doesn't say kids need to be on the float in order to get more points but judges said they gave less points to those who did not have kids on floats during judging. A list of floats for the judges would be helpful so they know who they are arguing in order instead of having to ask each participant as they go along. To streamline the process it would be nice to have a timekeeper for judging each float so everyone gets an equal amount of time to explain their float. Lastly we would love to see the judging process as part of the video recording of the event.
 - c. Jason Jasper was able to attend with volunteers to help with traffic and crowd control. The police were also there and Russ reports there were no issues as far as safety and traffic.
 - d. The Army did not show up to be in the parade.
 - e. Somersworth gets to choose the theme next year. Some ideas discussed:
 - i. Home for the Holidays
 - ii. Holiday Traditions
 - iii. Candyland Christmas
 - iv. Silver & Gold
4. Holiday Block Party
 - a. Both Somersworth and Berwick had low attendance for the block parties/tree lighting. Many also heard that the Portsmouth Parade later that night was also lightly attended.
 - b. Entertainment this year went over great. Everyone enjoyed Deb Cram and Elvis. The committee does feel however that we need more student/youth entertainment to keep the crowd after the parade is over and we may not invite Acoustic Radio back to make room for that kind of entertainment. The Green Foundry iron pouring wasn't as well received

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this year and we will not have them back. With that said, could we host a bonfire on the location where the Green Foundry was? Chris and Beth are going to ask the city of it would be permissible or not. if not a fire dancer would be an option the committee would also consider.

- c. There was discussion that we may not need the wooden benches from the high school for seating next year.
 - d. The mayor mentioned the possibility of having Sanat come in City Hall after the parade next year for photos and coco. More needs to be discussed as to how this would work.
 - e. Several in the group would stil;l like to do the fireworks next year as is a nice way to wrap up the evening and unique to our event.
 - f. Looking to reconsider what vendors are invited to sell food next year as the committee would like more low cost food items for families.
 - g. Chris Smith suggested we get a smaller Uhaul next year but that this process went much smoother than last year.
 - h. Next year the committee is considering buying more heaters if the budget and need is seen after more thought. Dancing mats is also an item suggested depending on what kind of dance groups we may want to hire in the future.
 - i. Another topic discussed was if the committee would possibly hire a group to sing at the tree lighting and have that as a more timed /planned event.
5. Other
- a. Most of the outstanding bills have been paid but the Somersworth Band has not yet submitted and invoice.
 - b. Santa is looking to be paid \$50 for his services. Beth is going to look into this as the committee was under the impression that the Berwick Fire Department paid them.
 - c. Need to advertise more effectively and earlier. More pizza box topping and putting up as announcements at schools and SAU letter board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Gagnon